

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00184 161433Z

43

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1727

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SF

SUBJ: BUTHELEZI ASSERTS HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE

1. SUMMARY. CHIEF BUTHELEZI ROUTS TINY OPPOSITION GROUP
AND TURNS AGAINST KEY MEMBER OF KWAZULU CABINET IN
DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION THAT HE WILL BROOK NO OPPOSITION
TO HIS LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. EMERGENCY OF OPPOSITION TO CONSTITUTED LEADERSHIP,
WHICH HAS AFFECTED SEVERAL OTHER HOMELANDS RECENTLY (E.G.,
PRETORIA A-90) HAS NOW BEGUN IN KWAZULU. LONG SIMMERING BUT CAREFULLY
HIDDEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR
BUTHELEZI AND BARNEY DLADLA, COUNCILLOR FOR COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS AND BY FAR MOST ACTIVE MEMBER KWAZULU CABINET
OUTSIDE BUTHELEZI, BURST INTO OPEN DURING STORMEY DEBATE
IN KWAZULU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY 13. IMMEDIATE CAUSE
WAS LETTER FROM AN URBAN ZULU SHARPLY CRITICIZING
BUTHELEZI'S ALLEGED PREDILECTION FOR A ONE PARTY STATE AND
PRAISING DLADLA'S CONCERN FOR THE WORKING MAN AN ALLUSION TO
HIS WELL PUBLICIZED ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF WORKERS DURING
RECENT DURBAN STRIKES. LETTER PRODUCED FURIOUS REACTION
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FROM BUTHELEZI COUPLED WITH UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGE OF LOYALTY FROM EACH CABINET MEMBER.
AFTER BUTHELEZI STRIPPED DLADLA OF ALL FUTURE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR LABOR MATTERS, LATTER DECLINED GIVE LOYALTY PLEDGE.

3. CONTRETEMPS FOLLOWS ALMOST COMIC OPERA ATTEMPT
PREVIOUS WEEK TO MOUNT OPPOSITION TO BUTHELEZI BY FMRMER
SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY CHIEF HLENGWA AS HEAD SO-CALLED
SHAKA'S SPEAR PARTY. AIDED BY HIGHLY UNUSUAL PERSONAL
INTERVENTION IN ASSEMBLY ON PART PARAMOUNT CHIEF, BUTHELEZI
SMOTHERED THAT ATTEMPT AND HUMBLER CHIEF HLENGWA TO POINT
WHERE HE WITHDREW FROM ASSEMBLY IN DISGRACE. BUTHELEZI'S
ALLEGATIONS SHAKA'S SPEAR PARTY FINANCED BY BUREAU FOR STATE
SECURITY HAVE SINCE BEEN CONFIRMED TO PRESS BY AN EXECUTIVE
MEMBER OF PARTY AND REPORTEDLY MAY BE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT
BY MEMBERS OF UP.

4. COMMENT: AS WAS TRUE IN PREVIOUS YEARS WITH RESPECT TO
POLITICAL MANEUVERS BY PARAMOUNT CHIEF GOODWILL, IT WOULD
SEEM THAT BUTHELEZI HAS LITTLE TO FEAR FROM TRIBAL GROUPS
SUCH AS SHAKA'S SPEAR WHICH ARE WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE
SUPPORTED BY SAG. A MORE SERIOUS THREAT COULD BE POSED BY
URBAN LEADERS SUCH AS DLADLA WHO WON A WIDE FOLLOWING
AMONGST ZULU WORKERS THROUGH HIS ENERGETIC INTERVENTION
IN THEIR BEHALF DURING THE DURBAN STRIKES. ONE WOULD THINK
IT VERY MUCH IN BUTHELEZI'S INTEREST TO KEEP SUCH LEADERS
ON HIS SIDE BUT IT APPEARS INSTEAD BUTHELEZI FEARS TOO MUCH
THE GROWTH OF ANY POSSIBLE FOCUS OF OPPOSITION TO HIM TO
FOLLOW SUCH A COURSE. HIS OVERWHELMING ATTACK ON DLADLA,
SEEN BY MANY OBSERVERS AS UNJUSTIFIED OVER-REACTION, TENDS
TO CONFIRM THOSE FEARS.
HOLMES

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